AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1. – 7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ An effervescent pharmaceutical composition comprising levodopa methyl ester and an acid-base couple, wherein administering a single oral dose of said composition to a human provides to said human a maximum plasma concentration of levodopa at about 0.3 hours (T_{max}) after said administering.

9. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 8, wherein said acid-base couple is sodium glycine carbonate-fumaric acid.

10. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 8, wherein said composition further comprises carbidopa monohydrate.

11. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 10, wherein the weight ratio of levodopa methyl ester to carbidopa monohydrate to sodium glycine carbonate to fumaric acid is about 1.0:0.09:1.7:1.1, respectively.

12. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising levodopa methyl ester (LDME) and an acid-base couple, wherein administering a single oral dose of said composition to a human provides to said human a mean maximum plasma concentration of levodopa (C_{max}/dose) of about 9.6 ng/mL/[mg LDME] after said administering.

13. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 12, wherein said acid-base couple is sodium glycine carbonate-fumaric acid.

14. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 12, wherein said composition further comprises carbidopa monohydrate.

15. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 14, wherein the weight ratio of levodopa methyl ester to carbidopa monohydrate to sodium glycine carbonate to fumaric acid is about 1.0:0.09:1.7:1.1, respectively.

16. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 12, wherein said C_{max} is about 3000 [± 1592] ng/mL when said single oral dose contains 314 mg of LDME.

17. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising levodopa methyl ester (LDME) and an acid-base couple, wherein administering a single oral dose of said composition to a human provides to said human an area under the curve of levodopa in plasma from 0 to 1 hour (AUC_{1h}/dose) of about 5.3 ng·hr/mL/[mg LDME] after said administering.

18. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 17, wherein said AUC_{1h} is about 1683 [± 1074] ng·hr/mL when said single oral dose contains 314 mg of LDME.

19. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 17, wherein said acid-base couple is sodium glycine carbonate-fumaric acid.

20. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 17, wherein said composition further comprises carbidopa monohydrate.

21. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 20, wherein the weight ratio of levodopa methyl ester to carbidopa monohydrate to sodium glycine carbonate to fumaric acid is about 1.0:0.09:1.7:1.1, respectively.

22. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising levodopa methyl ester and an acid-base couple, wherein administering a single oral dose of said composition to a human provides to said human a ratio of about 2.7 of mean plasma concentration of levodopa at 15 minutes after said administering compared to 60 minutes after said administering.

23. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 22, wherein said acid-base couple is sodium glycine carbonate-fumaric acid.

24. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 22, wherein said composition further comprises carbidopa monohydrate.

25. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 24, wherein the weight ratio of levodopa methyl ester to carbidopa monohydrate to sodium glycine carbonate to fumaric acid is about 1.0:0.09:1.7:1.1, respectively.

26. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising levodopa methyl ester (LDME) and an acid-base couple, wherein administering a single oral dose of said composition to a human provides to said human a mean plasma concentration (C_p) of levodopa of about 8.8 ng/mL/[mg LDME] 15 minutes after said administering.

27. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 26, wherein said C_p is about 2787 ng/mL 15 minutes after said administering when said single oral dose contains 314 mg of LDME.

28. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 26, wherein said administering further provides to said human a mean plasma concentration of levodopa of about 5.4 ng/mL/[mg LDME] 30 minutes after said administering.

29. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 28, wherein said C_p is about 1705 ng/mL 30 minutes after said administering when said single oral dose contains 314 mg of LDME.

30. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 28, wherein said administering further provides to said human a mean plasma concentration of levodopa of about 4.2 ng/mL/[mg LDME] 45 minutes after said administering.

31. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 30, wherein said C_p is about ~~2787~~ 1339 ng/mL ~~15~~ 45 minutes after said administering when said single oral dose contains 314 mg of LDME.

32. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 26, wherein said acid-base couple is sodium glycine carbonate-fumaric acid.

33. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 26, wherein said composition further comprises carbidopa monohydrate.

34. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 33, wherein the weight ratio of levodopa methyl ester to carbidopa monohydrate to sodium glycine carbonate to fumaric acid is about 1.0:0.09:1.7:1.1, respectively.

35. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A method of providing levodopa to a human in need thereof, said method comprising orally administering to said human ~~a~~ an effervescent composition comprising levodopa methyl ester and an acid-base couple, wherein a single oral dose of said composition provides to said human a maximum plasma concentration of levodopa (T_{max}) at about 0.3 hours after said administering.

36. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35, wherein said acid-base couple is sodium glycine carbonate-fumaric acid.

37. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35, wherein said composition further comprises carbidopa monohydrate.

38. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 37, wherein the weight ratio of levodopa methyl ester to carbidopa monohydrate to sodium glycine carbonate to fumaric acid is about 1.0:0.09:1.7:1.1, respectively.

39. (Withdrawn) A method of providing levodopa to a human in need thereof, said method comprising orally administering to said human a composition comprising levodopa methyl ester (LDME) and an acid-base couple, wherein a single oral dose of said composition provides to said human a mean maximum plasma concentration of levodopa (C_{max}/dose) of about 9.6 ng/mL/[mg LDME] after said administering.

40. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 39, wherein said C_{max} is about 3000 [± 1592] ng/mL when said single oral dose contains 314 mg of LDME.

41. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 39, wherein said acid-base couple is sodium glycine carbonate-fumaric acid.

42. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 39, wherein said composition further comprises carbidopa monohydrate.

43. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 42, wherein the weight ratio of levodopa methyl ester to carbidopa monohydrate to sodium glycine carbonate to fumaric acid is about 1.0:0.09:1.7:1.1, respectively.

44. (Withdrawn) A method of providing levodopa to a human in need thereof, said method comprising orally administering to said human a composition comprising levodopa methyl ester (LDME) and an acid-base couple, wherein a single oral dose of said composition provides to said human an area under the curve of levodopa in plasma from 0 to 1 hour (AUC_{1h}/dose) of about 5.3 ng·hr/mL/[mg LDME] after said administering.

45. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 44, wherein said AUC_{1h} is about 1683 [± 1074] ng·hr/mL when said single oral dose contains 314 mg of LDME.

46. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 44, wherein said acid-base couple is sodium glycine carbonate-fumaric acid.

47. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 44, wherein said composition further comprises carbidopa.

48. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 47, wherein the weight ratio of levodopa methyl ester to carbidopa monohydrate to sodium glycine carbonate to fumaric acid is about 1.0:0.09:1.7:1.1, respectively.

49. – 53. (Canceled)